#### PATENT APPLICATION

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Francesco FERRAIOLO

Filed: December 04, 2000

For: PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF A PROTECTING AND IMMOBILISING ELEMENT OF THE MATTRESS-LIKE TYPE, AND ELEMENT SO OBTAINED

Ass't Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

ATT: APPLICATION BRANCH

Sir:

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above identified application and to the calculation of the fees, please amend this application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 8, lines 2 and 3, change "any one of the preceding claims" to -- claim 1 --.

Claim 12, line 1, delete "or 11".

Please add the following claim:

-- 13. A protecting element according to claim 11, characterised in that the lower ends of the bar (19) and of the foot elements (16) are secured to a plate element (18). --

### PATENT APPLICATION

# REMARKS

Claims 8 and 12 have been amended to delete the multiple dependencies therein and new claim 13 has been added.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert V. Sloan Reg. No. 22,775

RVS:jlg

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